

The Secretary of State,
Department for Transport,
Tyneside House
Skinnerburn Road
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7AR

FAO Sandra Zamenzadeh - Casework Manager
National Transport Casework Team

C/o nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk

20th March 2023

Dear Ms Zamenzadeh,

Re: Bournemouth – Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company, 2024 Application to increase tolls

On behalf of the Corfe Castle Parish Council, I am writing to express our strong objection to the proposed increases in ferry crossing prices by the Bournemouth – Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company. As representatives of our community, we are deeply concerned about the potential negative impact these changes could have on our residents and local businesses.

We object formally to the proposed increases on the grounds that:

Lack of Consultation: There has been no meaningful consultation or transparency about the need for these increases above the agreed levels. The absence of public engagement undermines the trust and confidence of the community in the decision-making process.

Breach of Promise: The proposal to review charges so soon after the long-term charging plan was agreed upon following a public inquiry goes against the promises made by the ferry company. This breach of trust undermines the credibility of the company and raises serious questions about its commitment to honouring agreements.

Negative Impact on Users: The reduction in discounts for regular users and the proposed additional fare increases are likely to discourage people from using the ferry, which will have a detrimental effect on the local economy and community connectivity. This self-defeating approach could result in fewer people using the ferry, leading to a decline in revenue for the company.

We urge you to intervene and closely scrutinize the proposed increases in ferry prices to ensure that they are fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the community. We also request that the ferry company engage in meaningful consultation with the public and consider alternative solutions to address any financial challenges it may be facing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will take appropriate action to address our concerns and protect the interests of our community.

Kind regards,

Michelle

Michelle Harrington
Clerk and Responsible Officer for Corfe Castle Parish Council